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1 provide optimal care for these children; and

2 WHEREAS, the department of health operates a program of
3 early intervention services called CAREarly; and

4 WHEREAS, medical professionals often do not identify
5 developmental disabilities early enough in the child's life to
6 make a timely referral to this program; and

7 WHEREAS, earliest referral for these children means
8 maximizing the opportunities for growth and development of the
9 child;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
12 to create a task force to study ways to expand referrals by
13 medical personnel for early intervention services earlier in
14 the life of the child; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force include
16 representation from advocate groups, providers and parents of
17 developmentally disabled children, as well as appropriate
18 medical personnel; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of this task
20 force be reported to the legislative health and human services
21 committee by its October 2003 meeting; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of health, statewide medical and
24 pediatric associations, developmental disabilities advocacy
25 groups and the interim legislative health and human services

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